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## DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME



## ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTDOOR RECREATION 1974

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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON  
OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MONTANA

A SUMMARY OF  
ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT  
AND PLANNING

By  
RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
HELENA, MONTANA

JANUARY 1, 1975



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## PREFACE

This is the first annual report to the public on matters concerning outdoor recreation in Montana. It is prepared in accord with the objectives expressed in the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan of keeping citizens informed on a yearly basis on progress in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.

This report is concerned with the federal as well as the state agencies. It summarizes briefly the facilities developed, expenditures made, lands acquired, and, for the state, the planning information derived during the past year.

While legislative appropriations are made and expenditures incurred on a fiscal year basis, it was determined that the report would have more meaning to the public if reported on a calendar year basis. Thus, in some instances an arbitrary adjustment may have been necessary to place a cost on a given development. Full financial reports are prepared for the Governor and the Legislature annually on a fiscal year basis.

Recreation and Parks Division  
Department of Fish and Game





## 1975 - A LOOK AHEAD

The year 1975 may well be a major turning point in outdoor recreation programs. For some years, it has been commonly accepted that demands, and participation, will increase and thus more and more facilities would be required.

Several major influences are at work, however, which may impact considerably on these activities. The very high rate of inflation, and the impending problems of fuel and energy supplies will bring about changes in how the recreationist participates in many of these pursuits. While the problems are apparent, it is not known how the public will react and what the individual priorities will be. Planning for recreation will of necessity be based upon careful study of these factors in the situation.

A further consideration is the potential for conflict in the following situation. While the interest and participation in outdoor recreation has increased significantly, as for example in the case of the off-road vehicles, it has been paralleled by an intensified concern for protection of natural environmental areas. The need for a broad program of management of natural areas to insure appropriate use by all categories of recreationists is apparent, and work will proceed in this direction.

A more specific and recent problem is the shift in demand which relates to the current and impending coal development in the state. The full range of impacts of this are matters which must be addressed, and a course of action determined from this. Special attention will be given to recreation needs in impacted areas resulting from these activities.

The attitudes of the public, and of local officials particularly, must be determined with reference to the above mentioned matters. In the interim, the most reasonable and obvious approach is to begin providing recreation closer to home, and to emphasize those opportunities and activities which have the least possible impact upon inflation, energy, and the environment.



## RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### SUMMARIES BY AGENCY

MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION

### DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

Listed below are the recreational facilities constructed during 1974, together with facilities planned for 1975. Work scheduled for 1975 and following consists of urgently needed improvements and/or additions to facilities at existing partially developed parks, recreation areas and fishing access sites. Funds for this work are available from approved legislative appropriations.

<u>Plan.</u> <u>Reg.</u>	<u>F&amp;G</u> <u>Dist.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1974-Cost</u>	<u>1975-Cost</u>
1	7	Fort Peck Dredge Cuts		2 latrines 1 pic.shelter \$5,000
2	7	Hell Creek State Rec. Area	water system modern rest rm. 2 pic.shelters utilities \$35,000	
2	7	Intake Fishing Access Site (outstanding paddlefish area in state)	interpretive signs \$750	
2	7	Makoshika State Park	interpretive signs \$1,200	entrance road paving \$22,000
5	4	Belt Creek Fishing Access Site	master planning land surveying \$10,300	fences trailheads \$29,200
5	4	Giant Springs State Park	water system lighting foot paths road reshaping \$125,000	displays concession bldg landscaping \$90,000
7	5	Chief Plenty Coups Memorial State Monument	displays water system maint. garage \$5,400	displays maint. garage \$15,000

<u>Plan.</u> <u>Reg.</u>	<u>F&amp;G</u> <u>Dist.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1974-Cost</u>	<u>1975-Cost</u>
7	5	Dogtown Natural Area	fencing road & parking area designed \$3,500	
7	5	Big Rock Fishing Access Site	road parking area fencing \$7,400	complete the 1974 improve- ments \$3,500
8	3	Canyon Ferry State Recreation Area	Shannon fishing access imp. latrine picnic tables tree plantings long-range plan \$16,700	environmental impact statement
8	3	Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park	foot trail benches lighting drinking water ticket booth landscaping \$76,000	completion of 1974 projects \$15,000
10	1	West Shore State Park	well water system \$10,000	
10	1	Yellow Bay Recreation Area	sewage system \$20,000	
10	1	Kiwanis Lane Fishing Access Site	roads parking latrine well 15 picnic sites \$16,800	pave driving surfaces \$6,000
10	1	Whitefish Lake State Recreation Area (requires 1975 legislative approval)		(planning only) flush toilets caretaker fac. \$5,000
10	1	Lake Mary Ronan State Recreation Area (requires 1975 legislative approval)		drinking water caretaker site utilities (planning only) \$5,000



<u>Plan.</u> <u>Reg.</u>	<u>F&amp;G</u> <u>Dist.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>1974-Cost</u>	<u>1975-Cost</u>
10	1	Bitterroot Lake State Recreation Area		imp. youth camp & public area water system well \$12,500
11	2	Frenchtown Pond Fishing Access Site	18 camp spots picnic imp. swimming area water system flush toilets latrines caretaker fac. trailer dump sta. tree planting \$54,000	fence tree planting \$7,000
12	3	Clark Canyon Reservoir State Recreation Area	road imp. 16 camp spots parking area well latrines irrgation system \$47,000	tree planting landscaping management plan E.I.S. \$3,700
12	3	Fishtrap Creek Fishing Access Site	roads parking area 22 camp spots picnic tables access area latrines well site protection \$31,600	
12	3	Bannack State Monument	stabilization & preservation of buildings \$12,400	continued preservation work \$30,000
Statewide		Fishing Access Sites		planning of site protec- tion imp. \$10,000  Construction of site protection imp. \$25,000

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Construction of recreational facilities in the 11 national forests in Montana (comprising Region I) has been very limited during the past calendar year and consists of the following:

Completion of Red Cliff Campground on the Gallatin Forest.

Development of the Rexford Boat Ramp at Libby Dam.

Several minor additional boating facilities are planned at Libby Dam. No other development in Region I is foreseen for the coming calendar year due to a lack of funding. The developments referenced above (completed and pending) total approximately \$150,000.

Funding for operations and maintenance for recreation facilities continues to be limited, with no increases foreseen. Lack of sufficient O and M funds has caused the closure of several major campgrounds during the past year and half. These campgrounds are: The MacDonald Pass Campground near Helena, the Bakers Hole Campground near West Yellowstone, the Summit Campground at Marias Pass, plus the smaller Hungry Horse Campground located on that Reservoir. A number of minor campgrounds have been closed as well, and the season on almost all campgrounds was shortened due to inadequate maintenance funds.

### Ski Areas

Two new ski areas have opened on the National Forests, namely Discovery Basin on the Deer Lodge, and Big Sky Ski Area on the Gallatin, opening late in 1973.

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management has received only very limited funding for recreational development in Montana. Construction completed during the past year consist of the following:

Holter Lake Recreation Area - Campground  
20 camp units  
family picnic area  
boat ramp, 2 lanes

Very favorable implications for the future are noted, however, in the increased staffing currently in progress in the Bureau. The six district offices in the state now have been authorized to add a recreation specialist to the staff, and all but the Malta office position have been filled. The Bureau also has a state level recreation staff person, and recently added a number of archaeologists and a landscape architect.

LANDS ACQUIRED FOR RECREATION  
AND  
FOR HISTORIC SITES

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION



# LAND ACQUISITION BY MONTANA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

July 1, 1973 thru December 31, 1974

<u>Project</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>GAME MANAGEMENT AREAS</u>					
Sun River	02131	Lewis & Clark	47.39	\$ 4,952.36	5-17-74
	--				
Blacktail	02131	Beaverhead	2782.47	256,000.00	1-22-74
	04522				
Pablo	02131	Lake	5.19	10,000.00	11-18-74
	04940				
Bowser Lake	--	Flathead	1160.00	Gift	2-25-74
Hinsdale	02131	Valley	400.00	66,400.00	8-27-74
	04940				
Seven Sisters	02131	Richland	365.00	185,000.00	12-30-74
	04940				
Ninepipe	02131	Lake	232.62	105,000.00	10-11-74
	04940		4992.67	\$617,852.36	
<u>FISHING ACCESS AND RECREATION AREAS</u>					
Belt Creek	02131	Cascade	20.00	\$ 2,018.00	12-11-73
	--				
Bitterroot River	02131	Ravalli	11.63	8,724.00	9-24-73
	04940				
Flathead River	--	Flathead	10.00	Gift	10-01-73
Clark Fork River	02131	Missoula	22.00	29,500.00	10-15-74
	04940				
Clark Fork River	02131	Missoula	217.86	55,500.00	9-13-74
	04940				
Clark Fork River	02131	Granite	418.18	15,000.00	7-05-73
	04940				
Clark Fork River	02131	Missoula	336.34	76,000.00	1-28-74
	04940				
Gallatin River	02131	Gallatin	80.00	20,000.00	9-11-74
	04940				
Prairie Dog Town	06142	Sweetgrass	97.91	11,670.00	1-07-74
	04186				
West Shore Lookout	--	Flathead	3.50	Gift	12-05-73
			1217.42	\$218,412.00	
<u>HISTORIC SITES</u>					
Bannack	06142	Beaverhead	90.00	\$ 25,000.00	7-13-73
	04186				
Bannack	06142-04186	Beaverhead	1 Lot	20,000.00	7-05-74
Bannack	06142-04186	Beaverhead	1 Lot	9,250.00	3-19-74
	--				
Bannack	06142-04186	Beaverhead	1 Lot	7,000.00	3-27-74
	--				
Beaverhead Rock	06142	Madison	84.00	72,500.00	10-04-74
	04186		174.00	\$133,750.00	
GRAND TOTALS			<u>6384.09</u>	<u>\$970,014.36</u>	

## LAND ACQUISITION, CONTINUED

### U. S. Forest Service

3,300 Acres	Lewis and Clark County	\$250,000
-------------	------------------------	-----------

The property is situated on Beaver Creek and adjoins the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. Approximately 600 acres of the parcel may qualify for addition to the wilderness area.

The parcel will be used for general outdoor recreation including fishing on Beaver Creek. The area is highly scenic and includes timber, meadowlands, grazing land, and areas of picturesque limestone cliffs and arches.



## WILDERNESS AREAS

### Proposed Additions to the Wilderness System

Additions to the Wilderness System are in various stages of review, study and approval. Following is a summary of status to date:

#### Approved by Congress, Awaiting Presidential Signature

Mission Mountains Wilderness, Flathead National Forest 73,200 ac.

#### Submitted to Congress by President, Awaiting Congressional Action

Beartooth Wilderness, Custer National Forest 542,400 ac.

Spanish Peaks Wilderness, Gallatin National Forest 63,300 ac.

#### Proposed by Senators Metcalf-Mansfield (S.B. 3729)

Great Bear Wilderness, Flathead and Lewis and Clark 378,000 ac.

#### Proposed by Senator Metcalf (S.B. 4066) as Candidate Areas for Wilderness Designation

<u>Name</u>	<u>National Forest</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
1. West Pioneer	Beaverhead	157,000
2. Blue Joint	Bitterroot	43,000 (ID & MT)
3. Sapphire	Bitterroot-Deer Lodge	69,000
4. Mt. Henry	Kootenai	21,000
5. Ten Lakes Scenic Area	Kootenai	30,000
6. Elkhorn	Helena	89,000
7. Big Snowies	Lewis & Clark	89,000
8. Middle Fork-Judith	Lewis & Clark	87,000
9. Hyalite-Porcupine- Buffalo Horn	Gallatin	163,000
10. Taylor-Hilgard	Beaverhead-Gallatin	240,000
	TOTALS	988,000

#### Primitive Areas

In addition, 35 roadless, primitive areas totalling approximately 1.5 million acres have been administratively selected for further study.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers Study

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Study is now in the final report stage. It involves 219 miles of the Flathead River system, including 35,000 acres of forested lands adjacent to the streams.



# THE SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

## ENFORCEMENT DIVISION SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES



## SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT DIVISION ACTIVITY FOR THE SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

Pursuant to legislative enactment, the Department has major responsibility relative to enforcement in this area of recreational activity. The enforcement duties are chiefly concerned with violations relating to game animals, or birds, discharging of firearms, mufflers, and noise control. Also included is the responsibility to insure the proper display of the property tax decal which must be affixed to the machines. Wardens of the Department are the enforcement officers concerned with these duties.

Following is a summary of the activity during the past year:

Enforcement patrols were made throughout the state by 4 x 4 vehicles when possible and on snowmobiles in back country. During the past year, enforcement personnel logged 1,748 operating hours on snowmobiles.

Courtesy sound level tests on snowmobiles were made in cooperation with snowmobile dealers and clubs to check levels of various sleds.

During the summer months a Snowmobile Safety Course instructor's manual was developed and pilot snowmobile safety courses are in progress in cooperation with the Montana Snowmobile Association.

A "Snowmobile Newsletter" was developed and is mailed out to all snowmobile manufacturers, clubs, dealers and distributors to keep them informed on laws and regulations. A brochure entitled "Montana Snowmobile, Law and Safety," was printed for distribution to dealers to pass along to their customers and for general distribution.





# RECREATION PLANNING PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

## SUMMARY OF PROJECTS COMPLETED

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

## PLANNING PROGRAMS FOR 1975-1977



## INTRODUCTION

There are two significant changes underway in the planning program which will be of interest to the general public. The first of these changes took place in July of 1973 with the introduction of comprehensive planning for the recreational use of wildlife resources. (An overview and summary of this process is provided in a subsequent section of this report.)

The second major change will consist of a shift in emphasis from the state level to the local level in the planning process. While there are a number of conditions bringing this about, the primary reason for the change is that it will more accurately reflect the current trends and practices regarding citizen involvement in the planning process. Participation in planning by local governments will be aided by the establishment of district councils by the Department of Intergovernmental Relations. Recently established, for example, is the Central Montana District Council, serving Fergus, Judith Basin, Petroleum, Wheatland, Golden Valley and Musselshell counties.

Citizen participation in government, and hence planning; is evidenced further by the interest in the Land Use Planning Conferences recently held and also by the interest and participation in the Local Government Review Program. Participation by elected officials of local government in planning for outdoor recreation is thus a very timely and desirable process.

In the interim period, while the district council programs begin to develop, major tasks need to be undertaken. There is a need to acquaint local officials with the state-wide recreation planning system, and nationwide recreation planning, and a need to establish an organizational framework for this process. Also a major effort must be made to provide local officials (and private citizens) with the planning information which is vital to their participation in the planning process.

The role of the state agency is clear in the above referenced situations. The Department will work closely with local officials in furthering this relatively new concept in planning, and, in addition, it will undertake the studies, surveys, and public hearings necessary to provide information to be used as a basis for planning.

The following observations summarize the changing circumstances regarding planning for outdoor recreation. (1) Local officials will have the opportunity to participate in the planning process to the extent they wish. (2) The impacts of energy use, inflation and changing preferences need to be studied, and information provided to local government. (3) Organizational work will be needed to make the new process effective. (4) The establishment of county park boards will be a valuable tool in helping convey the sentiments of the public to all of the public agencies with some responsibilities in outdoor recreation.

## SUMMARY OF PLANNING PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 1974

At any given time, a number of studies are in various stages of progress and completion. In addition, data is accumulated under various methods which may not be identifiable as a full-scale study. Following are summaries of the more prominent studies recently completed. In general, the planning program is geared to the federal requirements for eligibility under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, and to the specific needs of the State of Montana.

### Survey of Recreational Needs in 126 Municipalities

Among the requirements for continued funding of urban recreation projects by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is a periodic survey of urban recreational needs on a statewide basis. During the past autumn, the Recreation Department conducted a study of 126 communities by means of a mailed questionnaire. Information was sought on needs, relative priorities for funding, and participation rates for various activities. Recreationists were also asked to comment upon proposed standards for facility development.

A full report on the study is available from the Department. Needs and preferences for the respective communities were delineated, varying as expected from area to area. In general, the respondents concurred with the proposed standards for facilities with few exceptions.

### Study of Preferences and Characteristics of Non-Resident Versus Resident Recreationists

Planning for outdoor recreation in non-urban areas involves consideration of the needs and preferences of our out-of-state visitors. A previous survey which provided responses from over 7000 recreationists was further analyzed to derive this information. Nearly 275 recreation sites of all kinds, administered by all levels of government (except cities), were represented in the returns.

The major objective of the analysis was to determine whether existing facilities were satisfactory to visitors, and further, what degree of satisfaction was expressed. Results showed conclusively that the visitor is very well satisfied with facilities in the state as a whole (granted the inevitable exceptions which were minor). Information was also obtained on preferred activities, and origin and distribution of visitors..

The Montana resident is on the average more critical of the quality of facilities, and is more explicit and less easily satisfied than was the non-resident. Of particular satisfaction to the visitor was the scenic quality of the natural environment. A full report of the detailed analysis is available from the Recreation Department.

#### Inventory of Recreation Potential on State Trust Lands-- 1971-1974 Summary

In 1971, an inventory was begun to assess the recreational potential of state school trust lands and to help meet the demand for outdoor recreation by the general public. The inventory consisted of classifying lands according to their public use value as determined by a set of resource and evaluation criteria. The three categories are:

- A - High public use value
- B - Moderate public use value
- C - Low public use value

Inventory areas have been located in almost every section of the state and include a total of 2,508 separate parcels of state land that have been evaluated so far. Out of this number, a total of 598 parcels were chosen for detailed on-site evaluation. 21% (125) of the nearly 600 parcels rated an "A" classification and 30% (179) rated a "B", while 49% (294) were rated "C". Of all 2,508 parcels evaluated, however, only 5% rated "A", 7% "B", and the remainder (88%) were assumed to be in the "C" class and include many that were not evaluated on site.

This inventory has helped us to assess the quality, quantity and location of the prime potential recreational resources presently being held in trust for the people of Montana. Detailed reports on each summer's inventory are available upon request.

#### Off-Road Vehicle Literature Review

Preparatory to undertaking studies on this subject, the Department has had an extensive review done of the existing literature of the field. More than 100 of the more significant reports were analyzed to determine directions for a qualified



study for the Montana situation. The summary shows that little work has been done in the intermountain areas, and that the work done in midwestern states has rather limited application to our problems and conditions.

The major finding of the review has definite implications for future work to be done in this state. It was found that serious researchers in this field agree that studies to date have fallen far short of needs for accurate, structured data on this very broad and complex phenomena of off-road vehicle use. (Future effort in this program is described in a subsequent section of this report.)

### Region 2 Recreation Survey Summary

Residents of Glendive and adjacent areas were contacted in a telephone survey last spring to learn of their views on outdoor recreation areas. The survey was conducted essentially by members of the Optimist Club but was initiated by the Montana Department of Fish and Game. The questionnaire included questions recommended by the local park and recreation board as well as those submitted by the state. The general area of concern consisted of six counties--Dawson, Richland, Wibaux, Prairie, McCone and Garfield--with special emphasis on Makoshika State Park. The cooperative venture proved to be an excellent procedure that can be used in other areas also.

The survey showed that most people in the Glendive area do take advantage of nearby recreation sites and use them extensively. Makoshika State Park was the preferred area, with Intake Fishing Access (on Yellowstone River) second, and Fort Peck Reservoir third. Visitors use a wide variety of sites not commonly known to a great many people. Roads and access were predominant concerns.

Since survey results are used in planning for facilities in these areas, knowledge gained is directly applicable. (A detailed report on this survey is available from Fish and Game upon request.)

### Cooney Reservoir Study

A pilot study was undertaken in 1973-74 to provide a model for study of recreational use at water oriented recreation areas. Cooney Reservoir was chosen, and residents of planning region 7 (counties in the Billings-Red Lodge area) were surveyed.

Due to its proximity to Billings, Cooney receives intensive use and thus should reveal public attitudes and provide direction for recreational development. The great



majority of Cooney Reservoir users indicate that they want the peaceful, rather rustic simplicity retained. Only limited expansion was desired, with no large scale developments as might have been surmised. Visitors wanted present facilities brought to a higher standard and an accelerated maintenance program.

In general, the survey substantiates the results of the statewide survey of several years ago, indicating people prefer the emphasis on the natural environment over development. A report on the Cooney Reservoir study is available from the Department upon request.

### Canyon Ferry Recreation Area Survey

A long-range master plan for this area is in the early stages of development. At a later date the preliminary plans will be available for public review and discussion.

Canyon Ferry receives intensive use from visitors ranging over a number of central Montana communities. A study of visitor attitudes and preferences is basic to the master plan preparation. Due to the complex nature of the use patterns and the many influences which bear upon this recreation site, it has been determined that a series of studies are more likely to produce the desired information. The first of these studies took place over the Labor Day weekend, a period of generally very high use.

The following list indicates the order of priority of preferences as determined from the responses from the users:

- (1) more extensive law enforcement to help curb the conflicts and disturbances which occur during heavy use,
- (2) More boating and camping facilities, (3) Improved roads, particularly on the western shore, (4) Improved campgrounds, (5) More protected fishing, swimming, and docking areas.

A more detailed report of this initial study is available from the Department.

## SUMMARY OF PLANNING PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

### Recreational Use of the Wildlife Resource

Recreation planning in the Fish and Game Department is organized into two major components:

1. Recreational Use of the Wildlife Resource
2. Recreational Use of the Non-Wildlife Resource

In January of 1973, the Department undertook a new and very significant program of comprehensive planning for the recreational use of the wildlife resources. Both the consumptive use such as hunting, and the nonconsumptive use such as wildlife appreciation, viewing, etc. are considered. The primary objective of the planning program is the provision of optimum recreation opportunities in the above categories.

The program is extensive and carefully structured, with the major work components summarized as follows:

- (1) Detailed inventories of wildlife species, including the geographic extent of their habitat.
- (2) Evaluation of the many types of demand for wildlife oriented recreation such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, viewing of game animals, etc.
- (3) Identification of major (and minor) problems and Issues which impact in some way upon wildlife oriented recreation.
- (4) Development of a system which will direct the efforts of the entire Department toward solutions for the above problems. These will necessarily be:
  - (a) Strategies for solution of problems that can be resolved in the reasonably near future with information now available.
  - (b) Long-range strategies for solution of problems that will bring about the desired changes at the end of a selected time period.

Among the changes which will result from the planning system work is the re-orientation of work procedures within the Department of Fish and Game itself. For the purpose of determining employee input in time and cost and for directing personnel efforts into areas of greatest need, it was necessary to develop a more detailed employee activity reporting system (EARS). This will enable the Department to channel personnel effort more efficiently toward a defined problem, i.e. recreationist/landowner relations, protection of big horn sheep range, distribution of hunting pressures, land acquisition priorities, etc.

Information Derived to Date. This report will not attempt to convey the full range of information derived thus far from the program; however, the following example is of general interest to the public.

## Inventory of Elk Habitat.

Square miles of habitat in Montana (Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 only, and excluding Indian reservations and national parks)	35,184
Square miles of above in federal ownership	25,396
Percentage of federal ownership	72%
Percentage of total habitat owned by Fish and Game	less than 1%

The study of demand (use-rates) indicates a wide range of hunting pressure distribution among the hunting districts. The non-resident hunter, in particular, is very unequally distributed, possibly contributing to resident hunter resistance (to non-resident hunting). This is indicative of the type of major problem (with many subproblems) that the comprehensive planning process surfaces, and ultimately will help correct.

## Fishing Pressure Survey

The postal fishing survey is being re-established in order to determine fishing pressures (actual use) on a state-wide basis, and on individual fishing waters of any consequence. The study will indicate how many people fish, where they fish, and how often they participate in the sport. The state receives numerous requests from a variety of agencies for this information.

## Recreational Use of the Non-Wildlife Resources

For administrative convenience, the following studies are categorized as non-wildlife in nature. At a later date, as the two major components are developed to a comparable level, the components would merge into a single, overall planning effort.

### Planning for Snowmobiles and Other Off-Road Vehicles.

Results of the previously mentioned review of the literature will be of major influence in determining the contents of studies or research in this field. Extensive coordination with the major federal agencies such as the U.S.F.S. and the B.L.M. is an important step in this process.

One of the first objectives in a study will be the elimination to the extent possible of existing biases relative to this general activity group. It is intended that documented facts should replace opinion on these matters, forming a sound basis for facility planning or administrative procedures. Further study objectives would include: (1) determination of the magnitude and distribution of the activity; (2) habits and preferences of the user; (3) extent of conflicts between

the differing recreational uses of natural areas;  
(4) administrative management and enforcement relationships that are sources of conflict (resulting in disregard for regulations).

The matter of environmental impact is perceived to be best separated from this study, due to its need for longer term and more carefully structured procedures.

The ultimate objective is an off-road vehicle recreation plan and it is clear that such a plan will be a number of years in the making. Ideally such a plan would (1) delineate suitable geographic areas for various recreational uses; (2) provide regulations governing the time and place for activities; (3) provide for safe use; (4) reduce the potential for conflict among the many competitive recreation uses; (6) minimize environmental impact; and (7) establish a comprehensive interagency management system for recreation in extensive areas of natural environment. A competent plan can emerge only from a broad and detailed program of cooperation between the federal, state, and local government, and from the users themselves. Securing this cooperation is thus a first step in the planning program.

Yellowstone River Recreation Impact Study. Impending coal and energy developments may result in significant diversions of water from the Yellowstone River. The Department has undertaken an 18-month study to estimate potential impact on all outdoor recreation activities associated with the waterway, specifically that segment extending from Big Timber to the North Dakota border, including major tributaries. This study is one of seven concurrent studies undertaken by various agencies to forecast impacts upon major types of water uses, and associated activity. Other studies undertaken by the several divisions of the Fish and Game concern fish and wildlife resources, and water quality on the Yellowstone.

The study is funded by the Old West Trail Commission with the Department of Natural Resources serving as the prime contractor.

Inventory of Private Enterprises in Outdoor Recreation. The Department is assisting the State Soil Conservation Service in an inventory of all private enterprises in the state which provide either outdoor recreation opportunity, or services to the outdoor recreationist. The inventory will be valuable to individuals contemplating business enterprises, to financial institutions, and to institutions that may wish to do economic studies of this segment of the economy.

The role of the private sector in the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities is very important. An inventory of this type will be used to help determine the quantity and nature of additional development in a given region or community. Duplication of existing private facilities can be avoided by this type of report.



1975 Recreation Demand Survey. Preparations are underway for a comprehensive demand survey beginning late in 1975. Initiating the study at that time will enable the Department to embark on a schedule with five-year periodic intervals, thus coinciding with other states and with the census year.

There are numerous reasons for the impending study; however, the major considerations are as follows:

- (1) Demand information must be kept current.
- (2) Major impacts such as energy, inflation and changing attitudes are important influences on outdoor recreation and should be re-evaluated.
- (3) With the emerging interest in land use planning, and with the efforts underway in local government review programs, local officials will be in need of up-to-date, localized and detailed information on public attitudes and preferences regarding outdoor recreation.
- (4) Continued funding from the Land and Water Conservation program is in part dependent upon updating of demand statistics on a five-year interval basis.
- (5) Such information is needed in the preparation of environmental impact statements, both by our agency, and the numerous agencies and institutions which request such information from our Department.
- (6) Master plans for recreation development by federal agencies will also be augmented by such information. (The Corps of Engineers will be redeveloping the master plan for Fort Peck during the next two years.)

It is intended that the study will serve as a major baseline for recreation demand information in the state.

A Recreation Camp for the Handicapped. The special recreational requirements of handicapped and disadvantaged people of every age is a recognized need in Montana, particularly for the institutionalized individual. A hopeful note in meeting these needs has been sounded in the preliminary interagency conferences which were held to investigate potentials in this area. Involved were the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Fish and Game, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Anaconda Job Corps, and interested individuals. Under discussion were facilities for a year-around camp for both instruction and recreation purposes.

Coordination for Regional Planning. Extensive groundwork will be needed to initiate recreational planning through the 12 planning regions. The assistance of elected county officials

and the area planning offices will be a first step in this process. As of this date, the procedures have not been established; however, the need is recognized and the Department is ready to assist governmental units who desire to participate in this endeavor.

1974 Mid-Continent Recreation Planning Conference. In August of this year, the Recreation and Parks Division hosted the 1974 Mid-Continent Conference for Outdoor Recreation Planners. Of particular interest to the general public were the summaries presented by the U.S. Forest Service, Glacier National Park, the Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management. Uniformly, the four agencies indicated their funding levels for recreational development were extremely low relative to demands placed upon them. Contrary to general public opinion, these agencies, particularly those operating in Montana, have virtually no funding available for recreational development despite their rather considerable holdings.

Some groundwork was established at the conference for the initiation of a formalized conference of federal and state agencies endeavoring to work out mutual problems in outdoor recreation in Montana.

## PLANNING PROGRAMS FOR 1975-1977

In the spring of 1975, the Department staff and representatives of the Planning Division of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation will meet and evaluate the current state recreation planning program. The program will be analyzed to determine whether the work efforts meet federal requirements, and, more importantly, whether they meet state needs. From this evaluation, a specific planning program for the period from July 1, 1975, through June 30, 1977, will be structured.

## BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

### GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM

The Department of Fish and Game, through the Recreation and Parks Division, administers the federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. These funds provide 50% of the cost of city, county, or state projects for outdoor recreation facilities. Funds are used to acquire as well as develop recreation property.

The following pages provide a list of the grants-in-aid recreation projects for cities, counties, and the state which were submitted and approved in fiscal 1974. The project development in many cases extends over a several year period.

In addition to the above listed projects, there is an indeterminate amount of recreational development funded entirely by local government each year.





# GRANTS-IN-AID PROJECTS

SUBMITTED AND APPROVED IN FISCAL 1974

In each project, the state or local share is equally matched with the federal share.

Project Number	Project Title	Purpose	Federal Share
30-00256	CULBERTSON Swimming Pool	Replace vinyl lining with a permanent concrete	8,000.00
257	POPLAR Community Park	Develop a park area with ballfield, playground equipment, restroom, group shelter, fences, water, picnic area.	31,800.00
258	PHILIPSBURG City Park	Develop a park with picnic, playgrounds, playfield areas/support facilities	63,600.00
259	MISSOULA Washington Park	Enhance an existing park: play equipment, walks, drinking fountain, picnic shelter, underground utility wires.	5,000.00
260	KALISPELL Woodland Park	Drain & clean lagoon, construct tennis courts, ballfields, drinking fountain, footbridges, water well,	40,000.00
261	SIDNEY Johnson Park	Develop a new city park with tennis courts, play equipment, fencing, irrigation system, turf, landscaping, drinking fountain, lights and signs.	15,000.00
262	BOZEMAN Bogert Park	Install a multi-purpose court.	12,500.00
263	BOZEMAN School District	Multi-purpose courts, play equipment, fencing.	50,000.00
264	HELENA Horseshoe Complex	Construct a horseshoe court in existing city park, with storage building, landscaping, signs, fencing, lights and bleachers.	4,000.00
265	PLENTYWOOD City Park	Playground area in existing park, portable bleachers, benches, walkways, add'l. decking, fence & sun shade.	8,000.00

266	Kiwanis Lane FAS (State project)	Acquisition by donation of 15 acres. Development: picnic tables, grills, garbage cans with racks, water well with pump, comfort station, stream bank protection, eliminate old roads, landscaping, parking signs.	28,620.00
267	HELENA Warming House	Construct a combination warming house/park storage/restroom building; lighting; widen skating area.	25,000.00
268	KALISPELL Five Park Additions	Improvements in five existing parks: irrigation systems, signs, landscaping, play equipment, multi-purpose courts, picnic tables & drinking fountains.	40,000.00
269	MISSOULA Bikeway System	Initial stage of a bikeway system for the City of Missoula.	40,000.00
270	HELENA N.P. Park	To further develop an existing park with landscaping, fencing, drinking fountain, ballfield, signs.	3,000.00
271	CARTER COUNTY Camp Needmore	Rehabilitate an old CCC camp messhall & barracks, new comfort station with showers, play area, tennis courts, fencing, parking, road work, water supply system, sewage system and signs.	17,000.00
272	ANACONDA Green Grass Park (Deer Lodge County co-sponsor)	Acquisition by donation of 8 acres. Construct play area, picnic sites, ballfield, tennis courts, restroom/shelter building, roads and multi-purpose courts.	225,000.00
273	BILLINGS Amend Park	Acquisition of approximately 60 acres for future city park.	42,400.00

275	MISSOULA VanBuren-Island Park	Acquisition by donation of 9 acre island. Development: picnic area, landscaping, topsoil, turfing, riprap.	34,450.00
276	VOID--see project #30-00300		
277	POWDER RIVER Swimming Pool	Acquire and renovate a swimming pool for a public facility.	22,790.00
278	BOZEMAN Municipal Pool	Renovate an existing pool and bathhouse with new mechanical equipment and relocation of utilities.	106,000.00
279	MISSOULA Tennis Courts	Construct four additional tennis courts with nets, fence and standards in an existing city park.	10,000.00
280	Kelly Island FAS (State project)	Acquisition by purchase and donation of approximately 584 acres of land; project includes parking, signs and fencing.	87,530.00
281	HELENA McHugh Park	Acquisition by purchase of 8.5 acres for a neighborhood park.	6,757.50
282	RAVALLI COUNTY Blodgett Park	Acquisition by donation of approximately 16.5 acres. Development: comfort station, fence, picnic and camping facilities, roads, parking, water system.	26,500.00
283	Greycliff Natural Area (State project)	Acquisition by purchase of 97.91 acres. Development: Interpretive panels and picnic facilities.	11,925.00
284	STEVENSVILLE City Park	Improve an existing city park: playground area, landscaping, irrigation system, fencing & signs.	25,000.00
285	WOLF POINT Community Park	Develop: ballfield, picnic and dance shelter, landscaping, playground area and utilities.	12,720.00

286	SUPERIOR Eva Horning Park	Develop an existing city park: playground area, irrigation system, comfort station, tennis court, ballfield and fencing.	15,900.00
287	MANHATTAN City Park	Develop an existing city park: playground area, ballfield, fencing, picnic area and signs.	5,000.00
288	BILLINGS Ponderosa Park	Develop an unimproved city park: irrigation system, landscaping, signs, playground area with equipment.	12,000.00
289	HAVRE Swimming Pool	Construction of an indoor-outdoor municipal pool.	181,832.73
290	Dredge Cuts FAS (State project)	Develop a fishing access site: picnic area, comfort station, signs and shelters.	2,500.00
291	Big Rock FAS (State project)	Develop a fishing access site: signs, fencing, roads, parking.	4,000.00
292	BUTTE Kennedy School Recreation Area	Develop a neighborhood park on school district land: handball walls, fencing, interior curbing, playground equipment, landscaping, sprinkler system, line striping for play area, picnic tables and signs.	12,000.00
293	KALISPELL Golf Course	Acquisition by donation of golf course. Old course will be remodeled and another nine holes will be added.	95,930.00
294	HELENA Sports Complex	Acquisition by donation of approximately 15 acres. Development: four ballfields, picnic area and playground area.	31,800.00
295	CHOTEAU Golf Course	Acquisition by donation of approximately 67 acre golf course. Develop: well, pond, sprinkler system, convert sand greens to grass.	63,600.00

296	FORT BENTON Swimming Pool	Construct an outdoor swimming pool with fencing, bathhouse, utilities, parking area and landscaping at old swimming pool site.	150,000.00
297	DILLON Bagley Park	Develop a public park and recreation area: Tennis courts, horse-shoe courts, benches, playground area, irrigation system, fencing and signs.	10,600.00
298	Statewide FAS Development (State project)	Development of state owned fishing access sites at dispersed locations throughout the state.	132,500.00
299	Statewide FAS Acquisition (State project)	Acquisition of approximately 4,500 acres of land at various locations to be used as fishing access sites.	750,000.00
300	South Sandstone SRA (State and local project in Fallon County)	Acquisition of approximately 367 acres of land. Development: dam, picnic area, swimming area, boat ramp, fencing, signs, comfort station, road/parking and water well/pump.	273,023.20
301	Lewis and Clark Caverns Improvements (State project)	Develop a public information center and rehabilitate foot trails.	46,546.50
302	Chief Plenty Coups Monument Maintenance Building (State project)	Construct a maintenance building for storage of park equipment.	6,360.00
303	DENTON Pool Renovation	Reline pool tank, install protective tarp cover, underground utility wires.	3,000.00
304	Bitterroot Lake SRA (water system) -State project	Install a domestic water supply system.	5,061.50
305	STANFORD Pool Heater	Install a new pool heater in an existing city pool.	2,500.00

306	CHINOOK Swimming Pool	Construct a municipal pool complex. Costs include demolition of old existing pool.	150,000.00
307	WHITEFISH Tennis Courts and Golf Course	Improvement of the existing city golf course: install irrigation system. Also install new tennis courts on adjacent city parkland.	<u>100,000.00</u>
50 projects submitted during f/y 74 for total Land and Water Conservation Funds			\$3,056,746.43

Total, Federal Funds      \$3,056,746.43

Total, State and Local  
Funds      3,056,746.43

GRAND TOTAL, Recreation project  
dollars initiated in F/Y 74      \$6,113,492.86





